

**Question for written answer P-006496/2013
to the Commission**

Rule 117

Marianne Thyssen (PPE)

Subject: Road safety - height of bumpers

The Commission makes considerable efforts to improve road safety in the Union, by means of a combination of European and national initiatives.

Europe has also played a pioneering role in making bumpers safer, inter alia through the mandatory introduction of energy-absorbing bumpers.

However, I have been receiving reports of tragic road accidents in which a car collides frontally with the rear of a truck. Photographs of the wrecked cars clearly show that their bumpers have failed to slow them down and that instead the car's engine and cabin have borne the impact. This is because trucks' bumpers are so high above the road surface, creating a significant height difference between the bumpers of the two vehicles.

Has the Commission investigated the scope for altering the height of trucks' bumpers to bring it into line with that of the bumpers on private cars? If not, will the Commission take such an initiative? Have any other initiatives been promised with the aim of resolving this issue, which causes distress?